

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/537,005

Examiner

Charles A. Marmor, II

Applicant(s)

BELLI, PIERFRANCESCO

Art Unit

3735

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment of 22 May 2006 and Telephonic Interview of 18 September 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

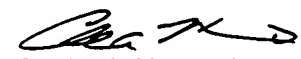
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20060918.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This Office action is responsive to the Amendment filed May 22, 2006. The Examiner acknowledges the Substitute Specification; the Replacement Drawing Sheets; the amendments to claims 1-5; and the addition of New claims 7-18. Claims 1-18 are pending.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Duncan and John McGlew on September 18, 2006.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

a. Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for controlling [[the]] childbirth labor comprising:

an electromyographic unit with sensors associated therewith for detecting the electrical signals of a parturient's uterus and means for analyzing and processing said electrical signals;

a pneumatic belt to be fixed around the parturient's abdomen and having sensors associated therewith to detect the variations of internal pressure of an interior of said pneumatic belt due to uterine contractions, and means for inflating said belt to provide a thrust as an aid for the expulsion of the fetus; and

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a device associated with the electromyographic unit and the pneumatic belt sensors and to control the activation of said means for inflating the pneumatic belt.

b. Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said device comprises an AND gate with AND gate inputs being connected, respectively, to an output of said electromyographic unit and to an output of an A/D converter located downstream of said sensors which are ~~housed in~~ associated with the belt, and with ~~[[its]]~~ an AND gate output being connected with the input of a D/A converter, wherein the D/A converter output is connected with said means for inflating the belt.

c. Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that a second switch is inserted on a line connecting the A/D converter with the D/A converter, ~~said second switch operating in push-pull mode with respect to said first switch.~~

d. Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that a second switch is inserted on ~~[[the]]~~ a line connecting the A/D converter with the D/A converter, said second switch operating in push-pull mode with respect to said first switch.

e. Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for controlling childbirth labor, said apparatus comprising:
an electromyographic unit with sensors associated therewith for detecting electrical signals of a parturient's uterus;
means for analyzing and processing said electrical signals; and

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a pneumatic belt adapted to be fixed around a parturient's abdomen having sensors associated therewith to detect the variations of an internal pressure of an interior of said pneumatic belt due to uterine contractions; and

means for inflating said belt to provide a thrusting force to aid in expulsion of a fetus, including a control associated with the electromyographic unit and the pneumatic belt sensors for controlling the activation of said means for inflating said pneumatic belt.

f. Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said device comprises an AND gate with AND gate inputs being connected, respectively, to an output of said electromyographic unit and to an output of an A/D converter located downstream of said sensors which are ~~housed in~~ associated with the belt, and with ~~[[its]]~~ an AND gate output being connected with the input of a D/A converter, wherein the D/A converter output is connected with said means for inflating the belt.

g. Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein a second switch is inserted on a line connecting the A/D converter with the D/A converter, ~~said second switch operating in push-pull mode with respect to said first switch.~~

h. Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a second switch is inserted on ~~[[the]]~~ a line connecting the A/D converter with the D/A converter, said second switch operating in push-pull mode with respect to said first switch.

i. Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said device comprises an

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AND gate with AND gate inputs being connected, respectively, to an output of said electromyographic ~~[[unit]]~~ sensors and to an output of an A/D converter located downstream of said pressure sensors ~~which are housed in~~ for detecting variations of internal pressure within the belt, and with ~~[[its]]~~ an AND gate output being connected with the input of a D/A converter, wherein the D/A converter output is connected with said means for inflating the belt.

j. Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

16. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein a second switch is inserted on a line connecting the A/D converter with the D/A converter, ~~said second switch operating in push-pull mode with respect to said first switch.~~

k. Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said means for analyzing and processing ~~of the electromyographic unit~~ said signals comprises a PC associated with the electromyographic ~~[[unit]]~~ sensors.

l. Claim 18 has been amended as follows:

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a second switch is inserted on ~~[[the]]~~ a line connecting the A/D converter with the D/A converter, said second switch operating in push-pull mode with respect to said first switch.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

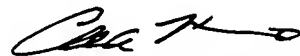
No prior art of record teach or fairly suggest an apparatus for controlling childbirth labor including a pneumatic belt adapted to be fixed around the parturient's abdomen; a mechanism for inflating the pneumatic belt in order to provide a thrust as an aid for expulsion of the fetus; and a

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device for controlling the activation of the inflation mechanism, where the controlling device is responsive to signals from electromyographic sensors that obtain electrical signals from a parturient's uterus and pressure sensors that detect variations of the internal pressure within the pneumatic belt due to uterine contractions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Charles A. Marmor, II at telephone number (571) 272-4730.



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